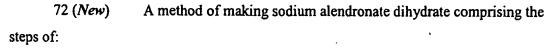
Ser. No.: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket No.: 1662/49704

IN THE CLAIMS:

(Cancelled)



- a) drying a mixture of sodium alendronate trihydrate and a reflux medium consisting essentially of absolute ethanol by refluxing the mixture and passing condensed reflux medium through a bed of 3Å molecular sieves, whereafter the condensed reflux medium is returned to the mixture,
 - b) cooling the mixture, and
 - c) isolating sodium alendronate dihydrate.
- 73. (New)A method of making sodium alendronate monohydrate comprising the steps of:
- a) a first drying step comprising drying a mixture of sodium alendronate trihydrate and a reflux medium consisting essentially of absolute ethanol by refluxing the mixture and passing condensed reflux medium through a bed of 3Å molecular sieves. whereafter the condensed reflux medium is returned to the mixture,
- b) a second drying step comprising further drying the mixture from step a) by refluxing the mixture and passing condensed reflux medium through a bed of fresh 3Å molecular sieves, whereafter the condensed reflux medium is returned to the mixture.
 - c) cooling the mixture, and
 - d) isolating sodium alendronate monohydrate.